

Walter E. Barton Oral History

OH 017

Dec. 21, 1978 and June 4, 1981

1 transcript, 4 cassette tapes

Rare Books and Manuscripts Division

Indiana State Library

Processed by: Christina Baich, April 2006

Finding aid updated: Edythe Huffman, 2015/11/13

Biographical Note:

Walter Elbert Barton was born on November 7, 1886, in Wadesville, Posey County, Indiana. His parents were Anson and Sophia Ann (Blackburn) Barton. In 1914, Barton received his LL.B. degree from George Washington University. He was admitted to the Indiana bar the following year and practiced law in Evansville, Indiana. On December 6, 1917, he married Martha R. Browning with whom he had three daughters, Eleanor, Martha, and Mary Ellen.

During World War I, Barton served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and was stationed in France. In 1920, he moved to Washington, D.C. to practice tax law before the federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. On April 1, 1955, he married his second wife, Isabelle Stockett Nixon. Barton wrote numerous articles and books on tax law. Late in his life, he wrote two historical memoirs, *The Lost Heritage* and *In the Twilight of My Memory*. He died on October 21, 1983, in Washington, D.C.

Source:

Thompson, Donald E., comp. Indiana Authors and their Books, 1917-1966. Crawfordsville, IN: Wabash College, 1974.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains a transcript and cassettes of interviews conducted with Walter E. Barton by Jerry Handfield as part of the Indiana State Library Oral History Project. During the first interview, Barton discusses his family heritage and Kentucky; childhood and chores; education and travel in the West; law practice, taxes, and publications; Washington, D.C. and Vice-President Thomas Riley Marshall; World War I in France; marriage and Evansville; and being a tax lawyer in Washington, D.C.

In the second interview, Barton discusses World War I, moving his law practice from Evansville to Washington, D.C., and the Posey County gas field. In the third interview,

he discusses Texas, tax books, and the U.S. Supreme Court as well as the cases he argued before the Supreme Court.

Item Listing:

1978 Dec. 21	Interview 1 Cassette 1
1978 Dec. 21	Interview 1 Cassette 2
1978 Dec. 21	Interview 2 Cassette 1
1978 Dec. 21	Interview 2 Cassette 2
1981 June 4	Interview 3 Cassette
1978 Dec. 21,	Transcript
1981 June 4	

Collection Information:

<i>Size of Collection:</i>	1 transcript, 4 cassettes
<i>Collection Dates:</i>	21 Dec. 1978 and 4 June 1981
<i>Provenance:</i>	Indiana State Library Oral History Project
<i>Access:</i>	This collection is open for research.
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<i>Language</i>	Materials are entirely in English
<i>Alternate Formats:</i>	None
<i>Related Holdings:</i>	L252, Walter E. Barton Papers
<i>Notes:</i>	
